Protection of SSIs

2466. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether items reserved for small scale sector are freely imported from developed countries;

(b) if so,the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken to protect small scale industries from such imports?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) As per the international commitments, India has removed Quantitative Restrictions (QRs), which were being maintained earlier on balance of payment grounds on different items including items reserved for small scale sector.

(c) Government is constantly monitoring the impact of the removal of QRs and WTO Agreements on the economy including the Small Scale Industries (SSIs) in the country. While the removal of QRs has exposed the SSIs to greater competition, there has not been any surge in imports as a consequence of this step. Even after the removal, of QRs, protection to the industries is available in the form of raising custom duties upto the bound levels, imposing anti-dumping duties, taking safeguards measures in case of surge in imports, etc. The Government has also put in place several measures to help SSIs become globally competitive.

Closure of SSIs

†2467. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of industrial units have to face closure due to sickness in small scale sector during Nineties;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.